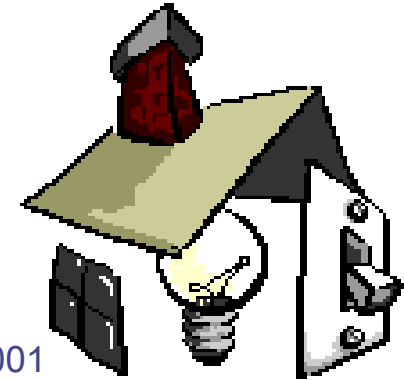


Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter

July 1, 2005



The Idaho State Electrical Board has adopted the 2005 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) per the requirements of Idaho Code 54-1001 and IDAPA 07.01.06011 (effective July 1, 2005) for all electrical installations within the state.

Please note the following NEC code requirements when making a new or remodel residential installation:

NEC 2005 Article 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection.

(A) Definition. An arc-fault circuit-interrupter is a device intended to provide protection from the effects of arc-faults by recognizing characteristics unique to arcing and by functioning to de-energize the circuit when an arc-fault is detected.

(B) Dwelling Unit Bedrooms. All 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by a listed arc-fault circuit interrupter, combination type installed to provide protection of the branch circuit.

In order to provide protection of the branch circuit serving all of the bedroom outlets (light, fan, etc.), the Bureau has determined that an arc-fault circuit-interrupter (AFCI) breaker must be utilized. The Electrical Board has also determined that the AFCI requirement shall not apply to the fire/smoke alarm outlet located in the bedroom. The Board believes this outlet should be installed separate from the AFCI protected branch circuit to insure integrity of the fire/smoke alarm system.

For further information or clarification, contact Jeff Fitzloff of the Division of Building Safety, Electrical Bureau at (208) 332-8980.